

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER  
GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE**

TO: Members of the Joint Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Scott Shanley, General Manager, Town of Manchester

SUBJECT: Support for Amended SB847


DATE: March 11, 2013

The prolonged and continually intensifying pressure on local governments in Connecticut to create fundamental new efficiencies to relieve the overburdened property taxpayer must be addressed. Cost effective access to the Nutmeg Network for municipalities is a lynchpin for developing these efficiencies. The Federal Investment, through the Broad Band Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) Grant, seeks to establish a fiber infrastructure serving "communities" to greatly enhance connectivity in a small state.

Needless to say, given our experience with storms over the past two years, when an emergency strikes, all areas of local government are involved; Public Works, Fleet, Emergency Management, Fire Police, Finance, Communications, Recreation Staff, Emergency Shelters, Senior Centers, and on. Municipal interests are integrated and the accessibility of the Nutmeg Network, at a fee which properly recognizes the taxpaying public's interests are served by their prior initial investment in BTOP, is critical. Continuity of operations planning would be greatly enhanced and response improved by access to a broadband network serving the whole state. In addition, numerous backroom process efficiencies are possible, quite invisibly, with this infrastructure in place. Seamless integration and sharing becomes more affordable and broadly available. Used to support taxpayer saving efficiencies, the network could revolutionize many of the services we currently provide 169 times throughout the state.

I ask that you support SB847, an act concerning the Commission for Technology Advancement to fully recognize the integrated nature of local government in emergency response and the potential of groundbreaking changes in inter-municipal service sharing. General local government officials need to be engaged in the governance of the Network and municipalities should be treated as the partner we are with state government with access rates that are at least as favorable.

Respectfully,

  
Scott Shanley  
General Manager

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